

baby, termed "reproductive" cloning, but also on any scientific or medical use of the underlying technique—which many support as holding valuable potential for the treatment of disease.

The bill's prohibitions go well beyond those under debate for the separate though related research involving human embryonic stem cells. At issue is not the withholding of federal funding from research some find morally troubling; rather, the Weldon bill would criminalize the field of cloning entirely. Such a ban would have ripple effects across the cutting edge of medical research. A complete cloning ban could block many possible clinical applications of stem cell research, and could curb even the usefulness of the adult stem cell research many conservatives claim to favor. (Without the ability to "reprogram" an adult stem cell, which can be done by the cloning technique, adult stem cells' use may remain limited.) The bill bans the import from abroad of any materials "derived" from the cellular cloning technique; that could block not only tissues but even medicines derived from such research in other countries.

A competing bill likely to be offered as an amendment bans reproductive cloning but creates a complex system for regulating so-called "therapeutic" cloning, registering and licensing experimenters to make sure that none would implant a cloned embryo into the womb. A House committee split closely on the question of whether to ban therapeutic along with reproductive cloning, with Republican supporters of the Weldon bill voting down amendments that would have carved out some room for stem cell therapies.

The prospect of human cloning is a cause for real concern, but it is not an imminent danger. There is still time and good cause for discussion over whether some limited and therapeutic use of cloned embryos is justified. The Weldon bill is a blunt instrument that rules out such possibilities, prematurely, and in doing so, goes too far. Congress should wait.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have only one speaker remaining, and since I have the right to close, I will reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I only have one speaker remaining. I would inquire of the gentleman from Pennsylvania how many speakers he has remaining.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have 4 minutes which I will use in my closing.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2-3/4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Greenwood-Deutsch substitute and commend them for bringing this alternative to the floor.

During the debate on stem cell research 5 years ago, I made it clear that opponents of stem cell research who claim that it requires the creation of embryos were mistaken, and I agreed with them that Federal funds should not be used for that purpose. Today we debating a much broader ban on therapeutic cloning.

The context is much different. We have learned a great deal about the promise of stem cell research and gene therapy over the past 5 years, and I am

opposed to any ban on therapeutic cloning. I just wanted to make the record clear because some quotes were taken out of context about where some of us who had participated in that debate were on this subject.

It is true that embryonic stem cell research can go forward without therapeutic cloning. However, the ability of patients to benefit from stem cell research would be negatively impacted if such a ban were enacted.

Once we learn how to make embryonic stem cells differentiate, for example, into brain tissue for people with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, we must be sure that the body will not reject these stem cells when they are implanted.

We are empowering the body to clone itself, to heal itself. It is a very real concern because transplanted organs or tissues are rejected when the body identifies them as foreign. We all know that.

In a report on stem cell research released by the National Institutes of Health last month, the NIH describes therapeutic cloning's potential to create stem cell tissue with an immunological profile that exactly matches the patient. This customized therapy would dramatically reduce the risk of rejection.

I am opposed to cloning of humans. How many of us have said that today over and over again? Many of my colleagues have already mentioned the chilling possibilities created by the idea of designer children with genetically engineered traits. That is ridiculous. That is not what this debate is about.

Both the Weldon-Stupak bill and the Greenwood-Deutsch substitute agree on this point. The cloning of humans is not the issue at hand. Therapeutic cloning does not and cannot create a child.

Mr. Speaker, the National Institutes of Health and Science hold the biblical power of a cure for us. Where we see scientific opportunity and based on high ethical standards, I believe we have a moral responsibility to have the science proceed, again under the highest ethical standards.

I urge my colleagues to support the Greenwood-Deutsch substitute because it prohibits human cloning, but maintains the opportunity for patients to benefit from therapeutic cloning that could lead to cures for Parkinson's disease, cancer, spinal cord injuries and diabetes. I urge my colleagues to support the substitute.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has debated this issue for nearly 3 hours today. It has been a good debate. Again, as has been said, it is impressive how many Members have become knowledgeable about this subject. It is time to summarize that debate. Let us think about where it is we agree and where it is we fundamentally disagree.

We all agree that we want to ban reproductive cloning, that it is not safe, it is not ethical to bring a child into this world as a replica of someone else. A child deserves to be the unique product of a mother and father and should not be created by cloning. We agree. It is unanimous.

We all agree that stem cell research holds promise. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) did not bring a bill to the floor to ban embryonic stem cell research. He did not do that on purpose, because it would not fly with the American people. The American people understand that stem cell research holds enormous potential. I do not think we have heard disagreement about that on the floor today.

The question seems to be, and it has been reiterated repeatedly, is it ethical and should it be legal to create in a petri dish an embryo, or in a petri dish to allow the process of human cell division to begin?

Interestingly enough, that is not part of this bill either. The Weldon bill does not say one cannot create a embryo, that it should be illegal. Why is that? Because the American people would never stand for that because it would be the end of in vitro fertilization.

We are not here to say we will never create an embryo. People have said it, but they did not mean it because nobody has brought to the floor a bill to ban in vitro fertilization. There are too many Members of this body who have benefited from it.

So we say it is okay to create embryos because there are couples in this country and around the world who have not been blessed with a child born of their relationship in the normal way. So they are able to avail themselves of this wonderful technology where we can create their child for them, in vitro in a petri dish, implanted in the woman and out comes a beautiful child. So many families in this country are now blessed by beautiful children who are now brought into the world in this way. It started in a petri dish. What a magnificent thing for mankind to do.

Children get sick and when those same children find themselves stalked with a disease that fills them with pain, that wracks their bodies, that tortures their parents with the predictability that they will watch their children slowly suffer and die. These same children whose lives had begun in petri dishes, who were created by in vitro fertilization, get sick.

Now the question is, would we stop the research in petri dishes in laboratories that would save their lives, these same children, that would end their suffering, that would bring miracle cures to them and bless their families with the continued miracle of their own children? That is what the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) and his supporters would have us do today.

Over and over again it has been said, I am not against stem cell research. I think a majority of Members of this House are not opposed to stem cell research. They have told me that. I have